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WPI Acc No: 96-518868/199651

XRPX Acc No: N96-437167

Remote setting and updating method for prices in vending machine - involves implementing emulator program in machine control unit which receives information from central host computer to update price information and indicate sales promotion

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Number of Countries: 070 Number of Patents: 003

Patent Family:

Patent No Kind Date Applicat No Kind Date Main IPC Week WO 9636023 Al 19961114 WO 96NO109 A 19960507 G07F-005/18 199651 B NO 9501799 A 19961111 NO 951799 A 19950508 G07F-005/18 199703 AU 9657061 A 19961129 AU 9657061 A 19960507 G07F-005/18 199712

Priority Applications (No Type Date): NO 951799 A 19950508 Cited Patents: US 5091713; US 5212774; US 5313569; WO 9527242 Patent Details:

Patent Kind Lan Pg Filing Notes Application Patent WO 9636023 Al E 7

Designated States (National): AL AM AT AU AZ BB BG BR BY CA CH CN CZ DE DK EE ES FI GB GE HU IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LK LR LS LT LU LV MD MG MK MN MW MX NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK TJ TM TR TT UA UG US UZ VN Designated States (Regional): AT BE CH DE DK EA ES FI FR GB GR IE IT KE LU MC MW NL OA PT SD SE SZ UG

AU 9657061 A Based on WO 9636023

Abstract (Basic): WO 9636023 A

The method involves remotely setting and updating prices of goods and services. The local unit includes a system control unit connected via an interface with an electronic coin unit and/or an electronic control device in the local unit. The local unit is connected via a communication network with an operator-controlled, central host computer. The host computer controls and monitors a number of such local units which form part of a decentralized system for supplying the goods and services.

The host computer stores a data base which contains information on the local units, the goods and services offered together with their prices. The method involves implementing an emulator program in the system control unit for setting and updating prices of goods and services, and transferring data from the host computer to the system control unit. The emulator program then sets and/or updates the prices in the electronic coin unit which stores and validates the prices for the individual goods and services.

ADVANTAGE - Permits **remote** setting of **prices** thus providing maximum flexibility at lowest possible cost.

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Title Terms: REMOTE; SET; UPDATE; METHOD; PRICE; VENDING; MACHINE; IMPLEMENT; EMULATION; PROGRAM; MACHINE; CONTROL; UNIT; RECEIVE; INFORMATION; CENTRAL; HOST; COMPUTER; UPDATE; PRICE; INFORMATION; INDICATE; SALE; PROMOTE

Derwent Class: T01; T05; W05

International Patent Class (Main): G07F-005/18

File Segment: EPI

Manual Codes (EPI/S-X): T01-J05A; T01-J05B; T05-H01; T05-H08C; W05-D04